

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

109. (Fifth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system in a single area including at least two cameras in the single area, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the cameras and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the cameras to a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the cameras comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of the at least two control devices with respective of at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of one camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective one of at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system a field of view of the camera associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from one control device of the at least two control devices to the automatic control system;

E. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D;

F. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step E;

G. issuing a command from another of the at least two control devices to the automatic camera system;

H. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step G;

I. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step H; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the respective command in steps D and G after a respective command has been received by the automatic control system [issued] and after the respective command has been implemented by the automatic control system.

126. (Fourth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a single area in a system having at least two cameras in the single area, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each of the at least two cameras and at least two control devices in the single area being movable by at least two users in the single area independently of the automatic control system and the at least two cameras to selected locations capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each of the at least two cameras comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of the at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of each of at least two cameras with a respective control device at locations selected by a respective one of at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system a field of view of each of at least two cameras associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from any of the at least two control devices to the automatic control system;

E. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D;

F. associating any of the at least two control devices with a respective first camera of the at least two cameras;

G. associating any of the at least two control devices with a respective second camera of the at least two cameras;

H. changing the field of view position of one of the at least two cameras associated with a field of view remembered in step C to provide a field of view position remembered in step C associated with the control device in step E; and

I. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command of step D after the command has been issued and after the respective command has been implemented by the automatic control system.

163. (Fifth Amended) A system for controlling the field of view variables of any camera in the system in a single area comprising at least two cameras in a single area, a single automatic control means for adjusting said field of view control variables of each said camera, at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of said automatic control means and each said camera, said automatic control means including means for associating each of said at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users and for associating said field of view of each said camera with respective control device at a location selected by the respective of at least two users, said control devices being movable to selected locations for sending commands to said automatic control means including first circuit means for identifying one said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected locations that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said one control device, [said command including identity information indicative of respective said one control device] said command including identity information indicative of respective said one control device, which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said one control device after said command has been sent by said one control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered and after said command sent by said one control device has been implemented by said automatic control means, said automatic control means further including second circuit means for identifying another said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected location that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said another control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said another device which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said another control device after said command has been sent by said another control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered and after said command sent by said another control device has been implemented by said automatic control means.

166. (Fifth Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system in a single area including at least two cameras in a single area, a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the cameras and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the camera to

a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the camera comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of a camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system the variables that define each field of view of the camera associated in step B;

D. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable of a camera that a control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

F. issuing a command from the control device identified in step D;

F. automatically changing the field of view of a camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step D;

G. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable another control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

H. issuing a command from the control device identified in step G;

I. automatically changing the field of view of the camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step G; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the respective command in steps E and H after a command has been issued and after the respective command has been implemented.

REMARKS

1-3. Claim 109 (Fourth Amended) has been further amended to recite that the system is in “a single area” as are the cameras used, unlike Uehara ‘543, which includes “local and “remote” stations. In addition, step J has been amended to include remembering the command “after the respective command has been implemented by the automatic control system”. Uehara ‘543 does not remember the command that is issued by the system after the command has been received by the system.

In Uehara ‘543 the command is “remembered” only while the command is being transmitted and is moving a camera.

With respect to the identification of a device that has issued a command (steps E and H), it is important to note that a command need not indicate where the command originated. The command need only convey information as to what is to be done—not where the command originated. In Uehara ‘543 the command is not remembered after it has moved the camera. The present invention does remember the device after a command has been accomplished and has information as to the device that issued a specific command.

Accordingly, Claim 109 (Fifth Amended) is not anticipated by Uehara ‘543.

Claims 126 (Thrice Amended), 163 (Fourth Amended), and 166 (Fourth Amended) have been further amended in a similar manner and accordingly, the claims as presently amended are not anticipated by Uehara ‘543.

4-5. Claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162, and 164 all as presently amended now depend upon the respective amended independent claim and are not obvious in light of Uehara ‘543 and Parker ‘296.

Parker ‘296 does not teach or suggest the use of two or more cameras operated by commands from at least two movable control devices used by at least two users. It would not be obvious to combine Parker ‘296 with Uehara ‘543 because Parker ‘296 is simply a different system having a different purpose. The principal objectives of Parker ‘296 include automatically locating and tracking a remote unit with a camera and using distance-measuring capability to control features of the camera. The systems of Uehara ‘543 and Parker ‘296 are quite incompatible and applicants believe that the references cannot be combined as the Examiner suggests.

Accordingly, Claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164 are believed to be patentable over the art in the same manner as the respective independent claims and by the specific steps recited in the dependent claims.

With regard to Claims 127-137, these claims are not anticipated by Uehara as discussed hereinabove, and are not obvious even when properly combined with Parker.

With regard to Claims 141-162, Claim 141 depends on Claim 126 (Fourth Amended) and is not taught or suggested by the cited art for the reasons stated hereinabove.

Claim 164 depends on Claim 163 (Fifth Amended). Claim 163 (Fifth Amended) sets forth remembering identifying information that identifies a respective control device as discussed hereinabove. Accordingly, Claims 163 (Fifth Amended) and 164 are not anticipated or obvious in view of the cited art.

6. Claims 138-140 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Uehara, Parker and Sano. Claim 138 recites a group of control devices at a single site under control of a single automatic control system, as contrasted to Sano's plurality of conference sites. Claims 138-140 are directed to the control of audio signals from the control devices being used, which are not found in any of the applied prior art, nor would it be obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art. Claim 126 (Fourth Amended) is the claim that has been further amended as discussed hereinabove upon which Claims 138-140 ultimately depend. In practice there may be several control devices in use and this feature is not found in the prior art.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 138-140 are not obvious in light of the cited art.

With respect to all the various individually treated claims in the above Office Action, while it may be true that Uehara, Parker, and even Sano disclose some of the features of the claims, it is not at all obvious in light of the cited art that they be employed with the features of the other prior art without reference to various methods and steps disclosed and claimed in the present application. The presently claimed system employs both identifying and remembering which control device issues what command so as to coordinate the activities of the system users and does so via a single automatic control system employing at least two cameras as discussed hereinabove.

7. A telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve any remaining issue prior to any further action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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